

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 31, 2004      LB 1090

may not go back to the generators at all. I mean, they are looking for a site. They have a lawsuit, as I understand it, that's still focused towards forcing a site in Nebraska. The money might be used for that purpose. They could choose to try to site in other states in the compact that would still be in the compact. The money might be used for that purpose. In all probability, the money would not go back to the generators at all. But to the extent that that might happen, the level of participation of the Nebraska generators is somewhere around 30 percent. So that might give you some picture of the involvement of Nebraska generators compared to the involvement of mainly nuclear waste power plant generators in other states. Remember also that if this matter is settled...and probably the only way it's going to have any meaningful settlement is if there's some agreement to make an effort--not to do; we can't promise to do--but to make an effort to site in Nebraska. And if that effort is made, it will not be in Boyd County, because it's...that has been declared an inappropriate site. And whatever the judge may have said about bad faith, the judge did not say that that was an appropriate site. So the siting process would have to start all over again. That was a process, you will recall, that cost somewhere \$80 million to \$90 million last time around. Now how much of that was bad faith and how much of it was just close scrutiny of a facility that's expected to last and keep us safe for 1,000 years or more? One can make that sort of judgment. In fact...have to make a judgment. In fact, I thought Judge Kopf, frankly, did not give enough weight to the idea that this is not just a facility that has to keep us safe for 30 or 40 or 50 years, like we're used to building. Where in this country have we built a facility that we know can be safe for 1,000 years or more? I'm getting off the point. But the main point here is that there will be enormous expenses siting this again, even if a compromise is reached that involves resiting in Nebraska. So you can't expect that we're going to get all of that money back if we settle it. We're not going to get the better part of it back, in my opinion. Thirdly, let me say this.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: There are pros and cons of this particular